

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2, 8, 9 and 18 are amended, and claims 1, 6 and 7 are cancelled. Claims 2-5, 8, 9 and 18-20 are now active in this application. No new matter is added. Claims 10-17 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

I. Claims 1-7, 9 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zingher et al. (USPN 5,930,468), for the reasons substantially of record.

II. The indication that claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is acknowledged and appreciated.

III. By this response, claim 8 is amended to be in independent form including all the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claims 6 and 7, claims 1, 6 and 7 are cancelled, and claims 2 and 9 are amended to depend from amended claim 8. Consequently, amended claim 8, and claims 2-5 and 9, as amended, depending directly or indirectly from amended claim 8 are believed to be allowable.

In addition, independent method claim 18 is amended to including the limitations of original claim 8. Thus, amended independent claim 18 now recites.

An image processing method for performing a image process defined by a parameter on image data, the image processing method comprising the steps of:
receiving a current job including image data;
deciding a state of the image data of the received job;
setting a parameter in accordance with the state decided by the deciding step if the interval between the receipt of the current job and completion of an immediately preceding job is longer than a predetermined time, while setting the

parameter that was used in the immediately preceding job if the interval is not longer than the predetermined time;

memorizing the set parameter along with control information thereof;

performing an image process defined by the parameter on image data of the current job; and

setting a specific parameter for the image process when a predetermined time passed after the completion of the current job, wherein

the specific parameter is the parameter that has the largest set frequency among memorized parameters.

As amended method claim 18 corresponds substantially to amended apparatus claim 8, amended method claim 18 is believed to be allowable as re dependent claims 19 and 20

CONCLUSION

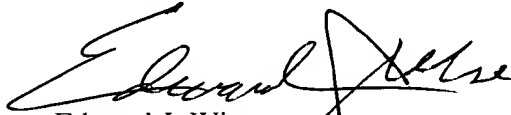
Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

09/662,819

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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